

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ASUNCI 05167 01 OF 02 221526Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 PM-03

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INFO SECDEF IMMEDIATE

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S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 ASUNCION 5167

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SHUM, PA

SUBJECT: INPUT FOR CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION DOCUMENT (CPD)

FOR FY 1979 SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

REFS A) STATE 297352 B) ASUNCION 3142

1. SUMMARY: THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN PARAGUAY IS JUSTIFIED PRIMARILY ON POLITICAL AND NATION BUILDING GROUNDS. IT HAS MADE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO PARAGUAY'S DEVELOPMENT AND HAS IN THE PAST AND CAN CONTINUE TO PROVIDE LEVERAGE FOR ADVANCING US INTERSTS ACROSS THE BOARD. A REDUCTION OF IMET FUNDING FOR FY 1979 FROM HTE REQUESTED \$600,000 TO \$150,000 LESSENS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS PROGRAM. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT LEVEL OF IMET FUNDING BE RESTORED TO ORIGINIAL REQUEST, WITH THE FUNDS TO BE RELEASED OR RESTRICTED BY THE CHIEF OF MISSION BASED PRIMARILY ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION AT THE TIME OF USE. END SUMMARY.

JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM

2. ALTHOUGH THE US HAS NO IMMEDIATE SECURITY PROBLEM IN PARAGUAY, IT IS IN OUR LONG TERM REGIONAL SECURITY INTEREST TO

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PAGE 02 ASUNCI 05167 01 OF 02 221526Z

MAINTAIN US INFLUENCE IN PARAGUAY. PARAGUAY'S EFFECT ON REGIONAL SECURITY STEMS FROM ITS LOCATION AS A BUFFER STATE BETWEEN RIVALS, ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL, AND ITS POTENTIAL OUTPUT OF HYDRO-ELECTRIC ENERGY AND FOOD. THEREFORE, OUR LONG STANDING PROGRAM OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE IS JUSTIFIED PRIMARILY ON POLITICAL AND NATION BUILDING GROUNDS, RATHER THAN IN TERMS OF PARAGUAY'S CONTRIBUTION TO US SECURITY.

3. OUR SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, ORIENTED MAINLY IN SUPPORT OF THE ARMED FORCES' NATION BUILDING EFFORTS, HAS MADE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO PARAGUAY'S DEVELOPMENT. MORE IMPORTANTLY, IT HAS PAID OFF IN TERMS OF PROVIDING LEVERAGE FOR ADVANCING US INTERESTS ACROSS THE BOARD.

4. AS A PART OF THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM THE PRESENCE OF A THREE-MAN MILITARY TEAM -- THE ODC -- HAS POLITICAL UTILITY. THE PARAGUAYAN MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT, HEADED BY PRESIDENT (GENERAL) STROESSNER, CONSIDERS THIS PRESENCE HIGHLY DESIRABLE. EVEN THOUGH NOT CURRENTLY BENEFITTING FROM IT MATERIALLY, THE PARAGUAYANS ARE WILLING TO CONTINUE PAYING MOST OF THE LOCAL SUPPORT COST FOR THE ODC BECAUSE OF THE SYMBOLIC VALUE TO THIS COUNTRY - WEDGED AS IT IS BETWEEN TWO MORE POWERFUL NEIGHBORS. FURTHERMORE, THE ODC PROVIDES A CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION TO INFLUENTIAL PARAGUAYAN MILITARY OFFICERS, WHO HAVE A KEY ROLE TO PLAY IN IMPROVING PARAGUAY'S POLITICAL PERFORMANCE GENERALLY, AND OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS SPECIFICALLY. SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AND THE ODC PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL LEVER TO THE US IN SEEKING TO PROMOTE OUR MAIN POLICY OBJECTIVES OF GREATER RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, BETTER COOPERATION ON NARCOTICS MATTERS, AND CONTINUED PARAGUAYAN SUPPORT FOR THE US IN INTERNATIONAL FORA.

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PAGE 03 ASUNCI 05167 01 OF 02 221526Z

5. IT IS OF BASIC IMPORTANCE TO FURTHERANCE OF US GOALS IN PARAGUAY THAT PARAGUAYAN MILITARY AND CIVIL LEADERS SEE A CAUSAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PERCEPTION BY THE ODC AND EMBASSY OF THEIR PROGRESS - OR THE LACK THEREOF - IN THE FIELDS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND DRUG TRAFFIC SUPPRESSION AND THE AVAILABILITY OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE. BUT THERE MUST BE SOME ASSISTANCE FUNDS TO BE EITHER GRANTED OR TAKEN AWAY. THE PROPOSED FUNDING LEVEL OF \$150,000 (REFTEL A) IS ONE-HALF THE AMOUNT INDICATED BY THIS EMBASSY IN REFTEL B AS THE MINIMUM NECESSARY TO BE OF REAL VALUE TO THE US OR PARAGUAYAN GOVERNMENTS. EVEN WITH THE SEPARATE FUNDING OF THE MILITARY SCHOOLS IN THE CANAL ZONE, THIS LEVEL IS MUCH TOO LOW. IT LESSENS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS PROGRAM AS A LEVER AND IS INCONSISTENT WITH OUR POLICY THAT IMET SHOULD BE SEPARATED FROM MATERIEL GRANT AID.

6. THE FIRST RESULT OF A REDUCTION IN FUNDS TO \$150,000 WOULD BE THE CANCELLATION OF THE CURRENTLY PROGRAMMED TOUR TO THE UNITED STATES BY THE PARAGUAYAN ARMY AND NAVY COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGES, SINCE THE COST OF THE TRIP WOULD APPROXIMATE THE AMOUNT OF PROGRAMMED FUNDS. SINCE THIS TRIP IS DIRECTED TO THE DECISION-MAKING LEVELS, RATHER THAN THE TECHNICAL AND IS HIGHLY VALUED BY THE PARAGUAYAN MILITARY, IT IS A USEFUL CARROT.

THE REDUCTION IN FUNDS ALSO REDUCES THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PARAGUAYAN STUDENTS PROGRAMMED TO BE TRAINED SIGNIFICANTLY AND ELIMINATES \$50,000 OF TRAINING MATERIAL PROGRAMMED TO PROVIDE TWO NEW ENGLISH TRAINING LABORATORIES, BOOKS AND MANUALS FOR SEVERAL PARAGUAYAN MILITARY PROFESSIONAL COURSES AND NUMEROUS TELEVISION CASSETTES FOR A RECENTLY PURCHASED TELEVISION TRAINING AND PRODUCTION CENTER, US EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS ARE AN IMPORTANT CHANNEL TO EXERT INFLUENCE AMONG THE PARAGUAYAN MILITARY.

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PAGE 01 ASUNCI 05167 02 OF 02 221517Z
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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 ASUNCION 5167

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7. ALTHOUGH WE ARE PRECLUDED BY REFTEL A FROM DEVELOPING WITH THE GOP A JOINT PROPOSED FY 1979 IMET PROGRAM BASED ON THIS DRASTIC REDUCTION IN CURRENT LEVELS, IT IS THE ESTIMATE OF THE ODC THAT ONLY THE FOLLOWING COULD BE PROGRAMMED AT THE \$150,000 LEVEL:

A) TWENTY ENLISTED AND FOUR OFFICERS TO IAAFA, CANAL ZONE FOR TECHNICAL COURSES IN MAINTENANCE, COMMUNICATIONS AND OPERATIONS;

B) ONE OFFICER TO COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE AND EIGHT OFFICERS AND THREE ENLISTED TO OPERATIONAL RELATED TRAINING AT USARSA, CANAL ZONE;

C) FIVE ENLISTED TO NAVAL TECHNICAL AND COMMUNICATIONS COURSES AT ACIATT, CANAL ZONE;

D) CONUS PROFESSIONAL COURSES FOR SIX OFFICERS; TWO AT COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF LEVEL AND FOUR AT ADVANCE PROFESSIONAL COURSE LEVEL.

8. THE LOW LEVEL OF FUNDING PROPOSED REDUCES OUR ABILITY TO USE THE IMET PROGRAM AS A LEVER AND REDUCES OUR FLEXIBILITY IN USING THE SECRET

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PAGE 02 ASUNCI 05167 02 OF 02 221517Z

PROGRAM TO INFLUENCE THE PARAGUAYAN GOVERNMENT THROUGH THEIR MILITARY LEADERS. WE RECOMMEND THAT THE LEVEL OF IMET FUNDING FOR FY 1979 BE THAT REQUESTED IN REFTEL A (\$600,000), OR \$450,000 IF THE MILITARY SCHOOLS IN THE CANAL ZONE ARE SEPARATELY FUNDED, AND THAT THIS AMOUNT BE PRESENTED IN THE CPD. FUNDS CAN THEN BE RELEASED OR RESTRICTED BY THE CHIEF OF MISSION BASED ON THE CURRENT HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION.

FMS FINANCING:

9. FMS CREDITS PROVIDE A MEANS OF PROCURING USED U.S. MILITARY EQUIPMENT, A MAJORITY OF WHICH IS USED IN NATION BUILDING. THIS INCLUDES EQUIPMENT USED TO CONSTRUCT AND MAINTAIN ROADS IN THE INTERIOR, EQUIPMENT TO MAINTAIN THE MILITARY-RUN INTERNAL AIRLINE WHICH PROVIDES THE ONLY ACCESS TO MANY AREAS IN WET WEATHER AND MEDICAL AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT. FMS CREDIT ALSO ALLOWS SOME REPLACEMENT OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT BUT IS NOT SUFFICIENT TO ALLOW SIGNIFICANT MODERNIZATION OR UPGRADING OF MILITARY CAPABILITIES.

10. FMS CASH PURCHASES NORMALLY ARE FOR SPARE PARTS AND MAINTENANCE OF AIRCRAFT, CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES USED TO SUPPORT THE ARMED FORCES' NATION BUILDING ROLL.

11. ADP DATA WILL BE PROVIDED SEPARATELY BY ODC TO DOD/DSAA.
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